IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **amend claims 3, 7, 9, 10, and 12** as follows:

1. (*Previously presented*) A method of operating a peripheral device enabled to communicate using a SCSI (Small Computer System Interface) protocol, the method comprising:

receiving a SCSI command write/read signal;

receiving a SCSI inquiry signal; and

delaying initiating a response to the SCSI inquiry signal by the peripheral device for a predetermined time period in response to receipt of the received SCSI command write/read signal and the received SCSI inquiry signal.

2. (*Previously presented*) The method as claimed in claim **1**, further comprising:

setting a delay timer and entering a delay mode for delaying the peripheral device initiating a response to said SCSI inquiry signal, the delay mode extending for the predetermined time period.

3. (*Currently amended*) The method as claimed in ~~Claim~~ claim **1**, further comprising:

responding to the SCSI command write/read signal by performing an arbitrary host selection procedure and performing a data transfer procedure after passage of the predetermined time period.

4. (*Previously presented*) A tape data storage device comprising:

a tape drive mechanism adapted to accept a removable tape data storage media for storage of data;

at least one buffer memory adapted to temporarily store data to be read to said tape data storage media and to be written from said tape data storage media;

a SCSI (Small Computer System Interface) driver; and

a controller device adapted to control said buffer memory, said tape drive mechanism and said small computer system interface driver;

wherein said tape data storage device is adapted to:

receive a SCSI command write/read signal;

receive a SCSI inquiry signal; and

delay initiating a response to the SCSI inquiry signal by said peripheral device for a predetermined time period in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal.

5. (*Previously presented*) The tape data storage device as claimed in claim **4**, further adapted to:

set a timer and enter a delay mode which delays said data storage device initiating a response to said SCSI inquiry signal for the predetermined time period.

6. (*Previously presented*) The tape data storage device as claimed in claim **4**, further adapted to:

respond to said SCSI command write/read signal by performing an arbitrary host selection procedure and performing a data transfer procedure after passage of the predetermined time period.

7. (*Currently amended*) A driver for operating a SCSI (Small Computer System Interface) enabled peripheral device enabled to communicate with at least one other SCSI enabled device according to the SCSI protocol, said driver comprising:

at least one ~~received~~ receiver or adapted to receive a SCSI command write/read signal and a SCSI inquiry signal; and

a delay timer to measure a predetermined time period;

wherein said driver is adapted to cause said peripheral device to delay initiating a response to the SCSI inquiry signal for said measured predetermined time period in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal.

8. (*Previously presented*) The driver as claimed in claim **7**, wherein said driver is adapted to set a delay timer and enter a delay mode, said delay mode extending for said predetermined time period.

9. (*Currently amended*) The driver as claimed in ~~Claim~~ claim **7**, wherein said driver is adapted to delay sending a response to said SCSI inquiry signal when in said delay mode.

10. (*Currently amended*) The driver as claimed in ~~Claim~~ claim **7**, wherein said driver is adapted to respond to said SCSI command write/read signal by performing an arbitrary host selection procedure and performing a data transfer procedure upon passage of the predetermined time period.

11. (*Previously presented*) A system of computer entities arranged to communicate via a SCSI (Small Computer System Interface), said system comprising:

at least one host computer entity; and

at least one target computer entity;

said system is adapted to:

initiate arbitration by the target entity;

select the host computer; and

to commence data transfer between the host computer and target entity during a bus free period comprising the inquiry period of an inquiry initiated by said host computer to said target entity.

12. (*Currently amended*) A program storage device, readable by a machine, tangibly embody a method of causing a processor to operate a

SCSI (Small Computer System Interface) protocol driver, the method comprising:

receiving a SCSI command write/read signal;

receiving **[[an]]** a SCSI enquiry signal;

setting a delay timer to measure passage of a predetermined time period in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal; and

responding to said SCSI inquiry in response to the measured predetermined time period having passed.

13. (*Previously presented*) A driver for operating a SCSI (Small Computer System Interface) enabled peripheral device enabled to communicate with at least one other SCSI enabled device according to the SCSI protocol, said driver comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive a SCSI command write/read signal and to receive a SCSI inquiry signal; and

a delay timer adapted to measure a predetermined time period;

wherein said driver is adapted to cause said peripheral device to delay initiating a response to said SCSI inquiry signal for said measured predetermined time period in response to receipt of said received SCSI command write/read signal and said received SCSI inquiry signal.